

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13-16, 18-22, 24, 27, 30-32, 34, 36, and 40 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 41 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Original) A platform assembly comprising:  
a first assembly having at least one longitudinally extending member;  
a second assembly having at least one longitudinally extending member, the second assembly  
being longitudinally, slidably coupled with the first assembly;  
at least one catch member pivotably coupled to the first assembly; and  
at least one stop member coupled to the first assembly and configured to maintain a rotation of  
the at least one catch member at less than a full revolution.
2. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one  
longitudinally extending member of the first assembly includes a first plurality of substantially  
parallel longitudinally extending members and wherein the at least one longitudinally extending  
member of the second assembly includes a second plurality of substantially parallel  
longitudinally extending members.
3. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 2, further comprising at least one catch  
member pivotably coupled to the second assembly.
4. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 3, further comprising at least one stop  
member coupled to the first assembly and configured to maintain a rotation of the at least one  
catch member coupled to the second assembly at less than a full revolution.
5. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one catch  
member is configured to exhibit a substantially bell-shaped geometry along a cross section taken

substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the first plurality of longitudinally extending members.

6. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 5, wherein the at least one stop member includes a lateral support member extending through an opening defined in each of the first plurality of longitudinally extending members.

7. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 6, further comprising a plurality of spacers wherein at least one spacer of the plurality of spacers is disposed between adjacent longitudinally extending members of the first plurality of longitudinally extending members.

8. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of spacers is disposed about a portion of the lateral support member.

9. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members are each formed of a material comprising aluminum.

10. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members are each formed of a composite material.

11. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 10, wherein the composite material includes fiberglass.

12. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 10, wherein the composite material includes a thermosetting resin.

13. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a closed polygonal cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

14. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim ~~2~~ 13, wherein the closed polygonal cross-sectional geometry includes a substantial rectangular geometry.

15. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a substantially I-beam shaped cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

16. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a substantially dog-bone shaped cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

17. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein the first plurality of longitudinally extending members is interleaved with the second plurality of longitudinally extending members.

18. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 2, wherein the first assembly ~~and~~ and the second assembly cooperatively define an upper surface and a substantially identical opposing undersurface.

19. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim ~~18~~ 18, wherein at least one of the upper surface and the undersurface includes a textured surface.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of securing an elevated platform, the method comprising:  
providing a first elevated support;  
providing a first catch member with an associated stop member on the platform;  
displacing at least a first portion of the platform laterally in a first direction until the catch member is positioned substantially beyond ~~the~~ at at least a portion of the first elevated support;  
displacing the at least a first portion of the platform laterally in a second direction until the first catch member engages the at least a portion of the first elevated support;  
further displacing the at least a first portion of the platform laterally in the second direction while substantially simultaneously rotating the first catch member in a direction towards the associated stop member; and  
abutting the first catch member against the associated stop member and against the at least a portion of the first elevated support such that the first catch member prevents further displacement of the at least a first portion of the platform in the second ~~lateral~~ direction.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising:  
providing a second elevated support laterally spaced from the first elevated support;  
providing a second catch member with an associated stop member on the platform;  
laterally displacing a second portion of the platform relative to the at least a first portion of the platform in the second direction until the second catch member is positioned substantially beyond ~~the~~ at at least a portion of the second elevated support;  
laterally displacing the second portion of the platform relative to the at least a first portion of the platform in the first direction until the second catch member engages the at least a portion of the second elevated support;  
further displacing the second portion of the platform laterally relative to the at least a first portion of the platform in the first direction while substantially simultaneously rotating the second catch member in a direction towards its associated stop member; and

abutting the second catch member against its associated stop member and against the at least a portion of the second elevated support such that the second catch member prevents further displacement of the second portion of the platform in the first ~~lateral~~ direction.

22. (Currently Amended) A platform assembly comprising:  
a first assembly having at least one longitudinally extending member;  
a second assembly having at least one longitudinally extending member, the second assembly being longitudinally, slidably coupled with the first assembly;  
the second assembly being longitudinally, slidably coupled with the first assembly; and  
at least one catch device associated ~~with~~ with the first assembly and positionable between a first position wherein a body portion of the at least one catch device projects from a first surface of the first assembly and a second position wherein the body portion projects from a second opposing surface of the first assembly.

23. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 22, wherein the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly includes a first plurality of substantially parallel longitudinally extending members and wherein the at least one longitudinally extending member of the second assembly includes a second plurality of substantially parallel longitudinally extending members.

24. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device extends through an opening defined ~~in~~ in the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

25. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 24, further comprising a sleeve disposed between the opening defined in the at least one longitudinally extending member and the body portion of the at least one catch device.

26. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 25, wherein the at least one catch device further includes a first flange at a first end of the body portion and a second flange at a second opposing end of the body portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 26, wherein the sleeve includes a first shoulder section defined in a first end thereof, the first ~~should~~ shoulder section being sized and configured to removably receive the first flange therein and, a second shoulder section defined in a second opposing end of the sleeve, the second shoulder section being sized and configured to removably receive the second flange therein.

28. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 25, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the sleeve are cooperatively sized and configured to provide an interference fit therebetween.

29. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 25, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the sleeve are cooperatively sized and configured such that the body portion freely slides relative to the sleeve without substantial interference therebetween.

30. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 24, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the opening defined in the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly are cooperatively sized and configured to provide an interference fit therebetween.

31. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 24, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the opening of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly cooperatively sized and configured such that the body portion freely slides relative to the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly without substantial interference therebetween.

32. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, further comprising a collar disposed between ~~at the~~ at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly and an adjacent longitudinally extending member and, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device extends through an opening defined by the collar.

33. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 32, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the collar are cooperatively sized and configured to provide an interference fit therebetween.

34. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 32, wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device and the ~~collar~~ collar are cooperatively sized and configured such that the body portion freely slides relative to the collar without substantial interference therebetween.

35. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 23, further comprising at least one catch device associated with the second assembly and positionable between a first position wherein a body portion of the at least one catch device associated with the second assembly projects from a first surface of the second assembly and a second position wherein the body portion of the at least one catch device associated with the second assembly projects from a second opposing surface of the second assembly.

36. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of ~~spacers~~ spacers, wherein at least one spacer of the plurality of spacers is disposed between adjacent longitudinally extending members of the first plurality of longitudinally extending members.

37. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a closed polygonal

cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

38. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim ~~23~~ 37, wherein the closed polygonal cross-sectional geometry includes a substantial rectangular geometry.

39. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a substantially I-beam shaped cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) The platform assembly of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second pluralities of longitudinally extending members exhibits a substantially dog-bone shaped cross-sectional geometry taken substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the at least one longitudinally extending member of the first assembly.

41. (Original) The platform assembly of claim 23, wherein the first plurality of longitudinally extending members is interleaved with the second plurality of longitudinally extending members.